

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., NW  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

RE: MB Docket No. 02-277  
MM Docket Nos. 01-235, 01-317, 00-244

FCC - MAILROOM

Gentlemen:

This will serve as my comment on the above mentioned items. I make these comments not only as a concerned public citizen, but also as a broadcaster for the past 34 years.

Throughout my career, it was always made important to me that broadcasters were trustees of the public airwaves. However, since the rules on media ownership have changed, I feel that the public interest is being served to a much lesser degree. If left to continue, this will have serious complications.

The practice of "voicetracking", which has served as a cost-cutting measure to broadcast groups in their greed to acquire more properties has already shown itself to be not in the public interest. An article in the Toledo Blade of November 14, 2002, by Russ Lemmon reported that there were no warnings on local voicetracked stations when severe weather ravaged several communities in the region. That storm killed five people in the area, and knocked out power for several hours. One listener said, "I have always felt that the radio was our link to information. It was very upsetting." Moreover, voicetracking is allowed despite the Commission's rule on Mechanical Reproduction Announcements, in which it is stated that an MRA should be made if the public might otherwise believe the program is happening live.

I have also witnessed firsthand how media cross-ownership of radio, TV, and ancillary businesses such as concert promotion violates the Commission's rules on "plugola". While working for Clear Channel Communications, a *department* head **told** me that the company in effect owned the artist Britany Spears, and if she did not play the company's venues, the company's stations would drop her records.

These are just a few of many facts I'm sure you will uncover in your investigation. This industry has been so important in the growth and development of our country for the past 80 years, I strongly urge you to consider how three or four corporations have recently been allowed to dominate it, without any interest in being stewards for the public trust.

I applaud your efforts to re-examine the rules, and I sincerely appreciate your time in reading my comments.

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